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GREAT WATER GIVE-AWAY

David Miller of Bishop: "More plants and trees will die, dust storms will grow worse."

The Inyo County NEWS-LETTER

60¢

March 5, 1984

UNDER NEW AGREEMENT, DWP CAN PUMP THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT RECOMMENDED IN INYO'S WATER MANAGEMENT REPORT.

For the past twelve years the city of Los Angeles has fought and schemed to get more water out of the Owens Valley. Now, it appears that the new agreement proposal will simply hand DWP all that it has wanted.

But finding out just what that agreement really says is like threading through the Minotaur's labyrinth--a chore that most have neither time nor inclination to tackle. To those who did read the 35 page document, it appeared that officials had written it to confuse and deceive the public. The supervisors, Lefty Irwin excepted, then implied that Inyo's public is too ignorant to understand and vote on the abstrusely worded proposal--adding insult to the injury of their secret agreement negotiations.

At a public meeting Channel 12's news editor John Heston, speaking as a private resident, supported a ballot issue. "I have a deep and abiding faith in the average intelligence of the American people. Their combined IQ may be a point or two above our officials'. If the people do not understand this agreement," said Heston, "then they have been deliberately misled." He added that the people are quite able to decide whether they want this or any agreement with DWP. In pompous arrogance, the supervisors denied the people the chance to vote on this issue.

Many who have read the agreement are begining to think Inyo should forget any agreement with Los Angeles now and fight. One individual who has taken the time to look at the proposal and other documents on the water issue is David Miller of Bishop. Miller, retired from construction management, has considerable experience processing and reviewing environmental impact reports. He and his wife Jean moved to the Eastern Sierra from Newport Beach. Their social consciousness and intelligence drew them to the water issue. They are members of the Owens Valley Committee.

Miller carefully read and reread the agreement proposal, finding that the agreement allows Los Angeles to escape the legal requirements of California environmental law. One section of the agreement says that if L.A. and Inyo adopt a long term management plan, Los Angeles can ignore court orders to adhere to environmental law on increased pumping in the valley.

Miller researched L.A.'s environmental impact reports, which the court has already found inadequate. But Miller found a pumping plan in the E.I.R.'s that just happens to

Continued on page 2

News Briefs

CATTLE DISEASE AFFECTS CALF PRODUCTION/ MYERS DECIDES HE WON'T LEAVE INYO/ COUNTY SANATORIUMS INVOLVED IN CORPORATE MERGERS/ SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATES POSSIBLE EMBEZZLEMENT AT BIG PINE INDIAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

Although ranching makes up only a small part of the Inyo County economy, it's a business with a high profile. This year, when calf production mysteriously started to drop, ranchers were alarmed. Local veterinarians discovered that calves were dying in the embryonic stage, and that bulls were suffering from a venereal disease known as trichomoniasis.

It's a disease that has plagued cattle herds in other parts of the state and has now turned up locally. The Inyo-Mono Farm Advisor, Dean Smith, arranged a meeting for the cattlemen to teach them how to deal with this growing and serious problem. Dr. Edward Henry of the University of California Davis Veterinary School talked to the ranchers, along with local veterinarians. The doctors discussed the treatment for the venereal disease, which involves injections of a cer-

Continued on page 7

AGREEMENT (Continued from page 1)
match the pumping table in the new agreement. The difference? DWP can pump more water from the Owens Valley without an environmental impact report.

Miller succinctly analyzed what can happen if the supervisors sign the agreement: Inyo will lose the court ordered limit on groundwater pumping, and DWP will gain the ability to increase pumping with no E.I.R. "More plants and trees will die, dust storms will grow worse," said Miller. Perhaps the most shocking of all, under the new agreement DWP can pump *three times* as much water from the valley than is recommended in Inyo County's own water management report. The report suggests that pumping from the valley should be restricted to 97 cubic feet per second if there is to be no further damage to the valley.

It seems Inyo officials have decided to ignore their own information and the warning that too much pumping will destroy the Owens Valley. It doesn't require a technical expert or scientific studies to see that DWP's drain on the valley's water has already killed trees and other plants. Those who have watched the valley for the last ten years or so have seen the disappearance of groves of trees and once healthy brush.

The supervisors dismiss all of this information, claiming that the agreement can come to an end in three years so the valley couldn't be hurt too much. Such wishful thinking ingores the improbability of the agreement being discontinued after three years. The agreement requires that termination notice be delivered by March 1, 1987, but the information on run-off for the water year comes out at the end of March. It would be very difficult for officials to make up their minds based on actual water conditions.

On the political side of the agreement, a battle may be lost, but the war is far from being finished. The minute the agreement is terminated, town water rates will go up again and reluctant county officials would have to pick up the pieces of the forsaken court fights. Opponents of the agreement say the only way to protect the valley is to dump that document and fight the groundwater ordinance case in court.

Few doubt that the supervisors will sign the agreement; more suspect the supervisors will pay politically in the future. For appearances, the board will hold "public hearing-workshops" on March 13th in Bishop and March 14th in Lone Pine. Many have privately said that these hearings will not permit real public input because the supervisors have closed minds, apparently seduced by the insignificant amount of money promised through the agreement.

Beneath it all, as one man commented, "It's not even so much the water situation, but the terrible inequity of a greedy outside people dominating the lives and land of the people of Inyo County."

■

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Communication Hassles at O.V. Unified

For those who serve on school boards, the pay is low and the irritation high. The idea is public service, but how well is it working? Communication problems inevitable crop up when people gather together to voice their concerns. Discussion often leads to such disagreement and dissention that even the simplest tasks become mountains of political complexity.

The new school board for the Owens Valley Unified School of Independence quickly found itself facing this perennial problem. With three recently-elected board members and a new superintendent, Independence teachers and parents hope for improved morale and more efficient opperation of the school, as well as better communication between the board and the public. But it seems the hassles continue.

Some board members and teachers resent the fact that past board members are now attending meetings to take issue with new board actions. One teacher called them "The ghosts of boards past." While she sat on the school board, Dean Loder drew criticism from the teaching staff and the public for her definite views on how to run the school--and for her style of dealing with people. She, along with Joe Andrews and Milburn Cobb, declined to seek reelection last year. The continued attendence of board meetings by Loder and Andrews, however, annoys some school officials who privately say the pair is disrupting the work of the new school board.

The school board is currently mulling over a "public participation policy." Some say that the board dredged up a more restrictive public policy because board members resented Mrs. Loder's participation from the audience.

At one meeting, Loder told the board that the education code advises the need for public input. She said that the new "policy before the board restricts public input. No one should be allowed to disrupt a board member, but," she added, "the old policy is adequate." The new policy suggests specific actions a citizen must take to get an item on the agenda and how the individual should speak to the board in session.

For some time now, the school board's policy has been to list what they call a "hearing session" at the outset of every meeting. It is then that a citizen may ask for time to speak on a certain agenda item. If someone is late for a meeting and misses the chance to ask for a speaking time, he or she must remain silent throughout the meeting.

Methodist Minister Pete Falbo brought that point up at a recent meeting. He had stepped into the meeting a few minutes late and lost his chance to ask for an appointed time to speak. When he asked to talk anyway, the board reluctantly assented. But the incident revealed a definite weakness in the board's new policy.

Board chairman Mark Felton told his fellow board members that he just wants a policy to follow and he will run the meetings accordingly. New board member Perry White says he wants a very simplistic policy designed to let people offer as much input as they want.

Some of those in the audience thought it would be simple enough to have an open forum policy at school board meetings, sharing freely with the public. That policy would require a strong leader on the board to keep order.

Meanwhile, there is a school to run. Things need repairs at Owens Valley Unified. The building itself needs attention. In short, there is tangible work to be done to create an adequate place of learning for Independence children. As one man pointed out, there has been a hot water leak at the school gym for a long time.

■ ■■ ■

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The Inyo County
NEWS-LETTER

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ICTV 12

SUPERVISORS ON THE DEFENSIVE

NO GOOD ANSWERS FOR THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE GRAND JURY'S INTERIM REPORT.

The Inyo supervisors missed the point of the Inyo County Grand Jury report. That interim report was the result of an in-depth look at the DWP agreement and the way county officials handled the process surrounding that agreement. The jurors were critical of county officials. The supervisors were defensive in their response.

Traditionally, boards of supervisors take a defensive posture in their replies to grand jury reports. Usually such reports include at least some criticism of the way officials handle county government affairs. In the past, grand juries have urged Inyo supervisors to forge ahead with implementation of the Inyo groundwater ordinance; board members responded with blank stares.

This time, in their response to the grand jury's report, the supervisors claim they are doing everything right for the people. In one part of their reply, the board says that "the Owens Valley water management report and the groundwater ordinance establish the basic goals for the valley to be achieved. It is our belief that the proposed agreement substantially complies with those goals." The jury report had asked the board to clarify specific goals that are supposedly being met in the agreement. The supervisorial response reveals that the supervisors are either deluded or are deliberately misleading the public. The agreement falls far short of the environmental protections called for by the groundwater ordinance and the water management report. As David Miller of the Owens Valley Committee pointed out: "The agreement permits DWP to pump three times more water out of the valley than is recommended by Inyo's water management report." Perhaps the supervisors have not read that report. The groundwater ordinance provides for local control over the underground water. The agreement has no such provision.

The grand jury report says that the supervisors' hearings on the agreement in the past were "deficient." The supervisors say they don't understand that. They say the grand jury's evidence on that issue should be shared with the board. Apparently they don't know that grand juries do not have to, and perhaps shouldn't, share evidence that is gathered in confidence. At any rate, it was obvious that the supervisors had held public hearings only as a formality. They had already made up their minds. It clearly made no difference to them what their constituents had to say.

Indeed, the jury report says that officials treated members of the public with disrespect at hearings and failed to address public comments. Naturally, the supervisors denied that they were less than open-minded with the public. The board's response even claims that the supervisors changed the agreement in response to public comment. The truth is, the significant concerns voiced by the public were dismissed by the board. Little insight was required to see that at the public hearings in October and November; those who opposed the agreement were considered with less regard than those who favored it.

The jurors also made the observation that Inyo conducted negotiations with DWP without firmly establishing leadership. The supervisors missed the point on this criticism too. They claim that "different county representatives were designated to take the lead on various aspects of the negotiations." But the jury report pointed out that the supervisors failed to prepare themselves before going into negotiations, failed to set priorities and stick to them. Aside from daily leaders, real "leadership" was lacking. The jury report points out that Inyo representatives appeared to "react to the city of Los Angeles' proposals with counter proposals instead of initiating concepts." In other words, L.A. took the lead.

As for the controversial pumping table in the agreement, the jurors echoed the feeling of many others when they wrote that "the extraction figures in the annual maximum pumping table are excessive." But once again, oblivious to any real concerns, the supervisors replied that there are "satisfactory safeguards to protect the valley if the city were to go to the pumping schedule." The language in the agreement, however, reveals that these so-called protections are very vague, leaving L.A. in a position to abuse words like "reasonably practical" and "customarily used." The jury report points out that "a study of pertinent data indicates that Los Angeles does not need such high extraction rates (pumping rates) for protection."

The supervisors' response also makes the bold statement that "most, if not all, of the concerns of the grand jury have been addressed." It's too bad the grand jury can't answer to that since it is clear the new agreement form includes the very same concerns expressed in the jury's report.

The supervisors voted 4 to 1 in favor of their response to the jury's interim report. Supervisor Lefty Irwin alone voted no. He said the jury's report was a "proper criticism." Irwin said the supervisors had "already made up their minds before the last public hearings. Who's kidding who," said Irwin, " we already had a resolution drawn up before our meeting. I'm just not going to be part of that anymore."

■

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The OVC Owens Valley Committee

After careful study, the Owens Valley Committee opposes the passage of the "Water Agreement" in its present form. Some of OVC's more important concerns are:

1. Under this agreement, DWP gets everything it could not get from twelve years of litigation.

2. The pumping allowed under the pumping table is three times the amount the county recommends in its own Water Management Plan.

3. We would lose the current court-imposed limit on pumping of 149.56 cfs even though pumping more than that may cause severe and irreparable harm.

4. Inyo County has no voice in surface water practices even though these practices have a profound effect on the groundwater.

5. Because of loopholes, there is virtually no way to force the DWP to use alternate water sources or practice conservation before going to the pumping table.

6. The eventual substitution of a groundwater management plan for the requirements of California environmental law would eliminate the protections provided by that law.

7. The agreement gives all control to the "Technical Group" and the "Standing Committee"; if we don't like what they do, there is nothing the public can do about it.

8. The agreement is full of loopholes; if we want to dispute its meaning, we're right back in a legal fight.

9. The three-year "escape" clause is unworkable so the county is effectively committed to the agreement for 5 years or more.

10. The towns' water rate problems should be resolved immediately and kept separate from the agreement.

The OVC stands ready to support an agreement which provides fair and equitable treatment to Owens Valley residents. Such an agreement must have <u>enforceable</u> provisions for the protection of our environment; ample opportunity for public review and comment; assurances that our reasonable water needs are met <u>before</u> exportation of water; and that the amount of water exported, including both surface and groundwater, does not exceed the level that will cause significant damage to the valley. The agreement has many more problems.

To know more,
write:

OVC

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<u>COME TO THE PUBLIC HEARING/WORKSHOPS</u>

Tues., March 13th
Bishop City Council Chambers
7:00 PM

OR

Wed., March 14th
Lone Pine Town Hall
7:00 PM

NEWS BRIEFS (Continued from page 1)
tain type of medication, although there is no vaccine to prevent the diseaes altogether.

As Smith pointed out, bulls are not easy to treat. They don't like to be herded into stalls to be given shots. Smith said the disease can not in any way be transmitted to humans, suggesting that ranchers could market bulls or cows that may have the disease.

Trichomoniasis has touched several herds locally, affecting cattle in the Bishop, Big Pine and Independence areas.

The Farm Advisor said this venereal disease usually cuts calf production by at least 10%. In Inyo, some ranchers said their calf production dropped by 40%.

*

Now he says he won't go. Inyo County Counsel Dennis Myers has fallen under political attack in recent months for his attitude on the DWP agreement. It came to light that the heat in Inyo might be too much for Myers when it was discovered that he had applied for the position of County Counsel in Stanislaus County.

Myers hurriedly called the supervisors to personally let them know about his job application, after he realized his job hunting had reached the news. At that time, he planned to go to Stanislaus for an interview on February 17th.

But before that date, Myers announced at a board meeting that he would not go to Stanislaus County. He said he planned to withdraw his name from the running in that county to stay in Inyo "as long as you (the supervisors) will have me."

*

Are the old people in Inyo County's sanitoriums getting proper care? Over the years there have been many claims that they were not receiving adequate care. That complaint surfaced again when the firm operating the sanatoriums asked to change the name on the county lease because of corporation mergers. Long term care has become big business in recent years. In Inyo, Casa Blanca Corporation originally leased the two sanatoriums. That firm planned to merge with Calistoga Corporation and into Wasatch. Wasatch Corporation is a subsidiary of Care Enterprises, Inc. which is a multi-million dollar outfit. Care operates 77 homes in California and Utah.

But does bigger mean better? The corporate officers say that it does. Inyo Supervisors P.D. Cook and Lefty Irwin have received complaints that the elderly patients in the Lone Pine and Big Pine facilities do not have the care they need. Cook has said publicly that a former sanatorium employee called him to say that the sans need looking into.

The supervisors allowed the name change on the county lease, but they also endorsed an idea presented by attorney Larry Stidham. Stidham has been looking into sanatorium complaints and has suggested creating a long term care advisory board to meet regularly to investigate sanatorium problems. So it appears that the supervisors will be taking a more active interest in the sanatoriums and their patients.

*

Thirteen year old Ben Holgate's fascination with computers has apparently led to a computer bonanza for Inyo County. Ben went to a computer camp to learn all he could about those electronic mysteries.

He contacted the Foundation for Advanced Research to get a computer to use at home. Ben's father, teacher Harry Holgate of Independence, talked to Dr. Clint Walker of that foundation about the computer needs of the Eastern Sierra.

Amazingly, Dr. Walker called Holgate to tell him that a computer manufacturing company may want to actually give away millions of dollars worth of computers to Inyo and Mono County schools. Holgate said it's all part of a federal and state tax write-off system for computer manufacturers who want to do away with computer models they no longer produce.

According to Holgate, it looks like a pretty sure thing.

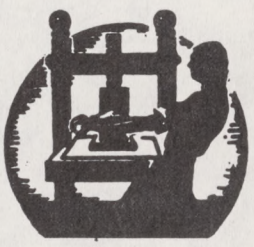
*

In Big Pine, rumors buzzed around town that money had been embezzled from the Indian Housing Authority office. While Indian tribe officials declined to comment, an arrest was made by Inyo Sheriff's men.

Detective Dan Kassemos reported arresting Alice Eben of Bishop on charges of grand theft and embezzlement of $5,600. The detective claims that Ms. Eben took cash from the Indian Housing Authority offices in Big Pine where she worked as a bookkeeper.

Kassemos said the sheriff's office would continue to look into possible money shortages in the housing authority office, and that the investigation would involve auditing. ■

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Local Band Records First Album



At community dances and local restaurants you've probably listened to the music of Sandy and the High Country. They're all Inyo County people: Sandy Anderson, Clayton Anderson, Victor Silvas, Zach Smith and various drummers. Now their local tunes are spinning on the record players of Southern California.

Sandy and the High Country has cut its first album. John Smith, actor and producer, has produced the group's first album, which is an "ELP." That means it's a 7 inch record but is played at 33 1/3. The record includes three songs. The front of the album carries a striking picture of the group with new drummer Lloyd Little.

Smith visited the Eastern Sierra recently. He said that the sound of Sandy and the High Country--a certain brand of country and rock--"is becoming real popular. It's a kind of country for the city. Other bands wish they could sound that way."

It's got to be a thrill for any group to make an album. That leap can mark the beginning of the upward climb. "For me," said Smith, "I knew the band and the area here. I was in Austin doing a film on music. I wrote the musical script then came to Los Angeles looking for a group to perform the script. They were too slick there. Then I thought of Sandy and the High Country--they were it."

Smith then brought the group to a Los Angeles recording studio and their first album was born.

Sandy and the High Country will come to Mule Days to promote their new record and, as usual, they will be on the road here and there playing what may become a very successful style.

■

O.V.C. Takes Stand on Final Agreement

After studying the final version of the DWP agreement, the Owens Valley Committee came out in opposition of that document. The committee's main concerns about the agreement: the pumping table allows too much water to be pumped from the valley's groundwater, and there are not adequate protections against that pumping table. The O.V.C. also feels that if the county and DWP do eventually find a long-term water management plan DWP would never have to perform an environmental impact report on increased pumping in the valley. Members of the committee believe this would be shirking environmental law.

In addition, the group is concerned that it would be too difficult for the county to get out of the agreement at the end of three or five years, and that there are too many loop holes in the language of the agreement.

The Owens Valley Committee formed in response to the agreement. It was a means for people to fight an agreement that they felt would be damaging to the valley. The O.V.C. also supports political candidates for supervisor who share their views on the water issue. Members of the committee have been privately meeting with some of those candidates. The group has also been meeting to formulate a strategy to defeat the agreement.

■

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BENBROOK

by Clarence Benbrook

Why does organized crime prosper in the U.S.? Probably because it is better organized.

Konstantin U. Chernenko, new ruler in Russia. In a few months they'll be calling him Cantstand U. Chernenko.

Senator Dole is working on a $100 billion package to trim the federal deficit. It will consist of cuts and tax increases. You can bet your 1040 that it will be cuts that never come and taxes that never go.

Economics is what the government practices, and nobody else understands.

Reagan calls for better ties with the Soviets. But their phone has been out of order.

Jesse Jackson says we should look to the third world for an answer to American problems. Castro, Khomeini, Assad, Kadafi, to name a few, are not solutions; they are most of the problem.

Congressional leaders of both parties are dismayed by the red ink in the budget. The fox is dismayed at finding himself inside the chicken coop.

Ed Asner says politics are forgotten when acting begins. Acting isn't forgotten when Reagan begins politicking.

Statue of Liberty getting a facelift. The Bill of Rights could use one too.

What is the difference between direct and indirect taxes? Direct is what gets stolen while you're awake. Indirect is what gets stolen while you're asleep.

Omie Mairs says, "Get rid of costs, no matter what it wastes."

The money shortage is just hearsay from people who don't own a bank.

Tens of thousands of mourners passed the bier of Andropov to pay thier last disrespects.

After 25 years of Castro rule, the streets of Havana are safe. He sent all his criminals over here.

Army's think tank leaving Pasadena. Tanks, but no think.

L.A. Department of Health has a finger on the public pulse. And its other fingers in its pockets.

A "Holy War" is threatening to sweep over the whole Middle East. The Devil hides his wars in holy clothing.

There is a possibility of a computer operator in one country carrying out computer crimes in another. If your Social Security gets screwed up they can blame the Russians.

Federal Reserve Board fears choice between slump and inflation. That's why Washington, D.C. was laid out in circles.

President to offer new Latin plan. Two tacos and a grenade on every plate.

Public rallies to save starving elk and deer. Ran out of hungry people.

The "Winds of Words" are blowing over the countryside.

O'Neill has a house in Washington overlooking the public.

Mondale doesn't understand why people listen to all the political "baloney" of the other candidates. They should listen to his baloney.

Reagan thinks students are getting by in school on a prayer.

Independent Bell Phone Companies have already raised rates by $2.17 billion and are working for $4.13 more. When the government breaks up a monopoly the pieces fall in everybody's yard.

Radiation may replace pesticides. Radiation will cook the worms so they will taste better.

Young people on TV complain about job burnout. I have it in the last stages-- retirement burnout.

Government is spending $5,692 a second. Sonic boom looking for a sonic bust.

Former President Carter says he never would have sent troops to Lebanon. He would have sent six helicopters.

Mondale says, "I'd be the best qualified president in history." As perfect as a man filling out a job application.

We have had a "New Deal" with a stacked deck, "New Horizons" which lead nowhere and a "New Begining" of the same old thing. What's next?

Cemetaries across the country are running out of burial sites. A grave shortage.

AN APOLOGY: In the last issue I wrote that the radicals of today are the dictators of tomorrow. The print came out, "The radicals of today are the democrats of tomorrow." This was a slip of the typist's tongue. Some of my best friends are democrats. So I apologize!

SOME PREDICTIONS FOR 1983 TAKEN FROM "WEEKLY WORLD NEWS":

U.S. and Soviets will agree to end the nuclear arms race. The crystal ball was all smogged up.

An anti-cancer vaccine will be found. Quack!

A new car designed like a space machine will be introduced and become so popular that its super sales will restore the auto industry. I saw one of them. I also see flying saucers.

Shopping at home by cable TV will take America by storm. Dr. Fishbeck didn't have anything to do with this storm.

Johnny Carson will retire. He couldn't because he had one more mouth to feed.

Michigan will win the Rose Bowl. Michigan didn't bowl good enough.

Margaret Thatcher will be driven from the British Prime Ministry--In a limousine.

Biggest surprise in politics will be the election of Mohammed Ali. On the way he got caught in a butterfly net and was stung by a bee.

Dolly Parton will lose weight, throw away her wigs and emerge with a natural look. Nobody has recognized her as yet.

Prince Andrew will sneak off to the Hawaiian Islands for a love tryst with Brook Shields. Brook is not leveling with me.

The remains of a gigantic flying machine will be found in the Australian outback. It will contain 739 skeletons of an ancient Inca civilization. I don't know what psychics smoke, but I could sure use some before I check their predictions.

Ben

■ ■■ ■



Benett Kessler

Notes from B.K

MISSING PAGE 13 / KNIGHT MANOR RETURNS / A GET WELL WISH FOR JACK CLAY / PROUD FATHERS / A RATHER UNKIND DEED BY "2 ON THE TOWN"

Where did it go? That's what some people wanted to know when they picked up copies of the DWP agreement at Inyo Libraries and noticed that page 13 was missing. Now, everybody knows how unlucky number 13 is . And it was especially so for those who failed to notice the "missing 13's." That's probably the most controversial page in the entire 35 page confusion. It includes the groundwater pumping table.

To make matters worse, pages 12 and 14 begin and end without a clue that 13 even existed--unless you happen to be looking at page numbers. A deliberate ommission? Oh no, say officials.

Well, if you have an agreement copy, better check for that mysterious page 13. Seems to come and go.

*

Knight Manor Restaurant at Big Pine is back. In a county seriously lacking fine dining, that's good news. Bob McBurney and wife Flo have taken over Dean Knight's brainchild--the restaurant, lounge, club and grounds.

McBurney used to run the continuation school at Big Pine, but he and his wife have experience in the food business too. For those who used to enjoy the cuisine at Knight Manor in its first life, the second go around boasts the same chef--Murray Clay. For now, Friday and Saturday only for dinner.

*

And speaking of the Clay family, we're wishing Jack Clay a speedy recovery. He suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for a while. At last report, Jack is back home and doing well. Hope he's back on the job soon. Jack Clay, who is, of course, the Inyo County Assessor, has one of the most efficient and well-run offices around.

*

Also, speaking of fathers and sons, *ICTV's* news editor John Heston's son John is in the Navy and stationed on one of those ships off shore from Beirut, Lebanon. The younger Heston had bunked in at the building in Beirut that was bombed, but he was reassigned before that tragic incident. Seems young Heston is quite a brain too. The Navy has assigned him to the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Another accomplished son of a locally well-known father is John Denton, son of Mono County District Attorney Ed Denton and nephew of Bishop's Dr. Robert Denton. We understand John Denton has gone to work at the Pentagon.

*

The co-hosts on Los Angeles' KNXT television program "2 On The Town" went to work on a story about the Eastern Sierra and Mammoth's volcanic hazard. If you saw it, you know they did a kind of hatchet job on the ski area. Steve Edwards and Melody Rogers probably had fun doing the show--taking advantage of good skiing and Mammoth's night life--but they really did an unkind thing to the Eastern Sierra and its tourist economy. The program edited-in video of Mt. St. Helens erupting in the midst of shots of Mammoth Mountain. Then there was the song "Where Will I Go When The Volcano Blows," dubbed over video of skiers and, once more, Mt. St. Helens exploding. Now, everyone knows there is a volcanic hazard, and local people are moving ahead with emergency planning. But, ironically, right now there seems to be no geological activity to warrant immediate concern. You'd never know that if you watched "2 On The Town." But then, when has L.A. done anything "nice" for the Eastern Sierra?

...MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS EVERY DAY...

Sincerely,

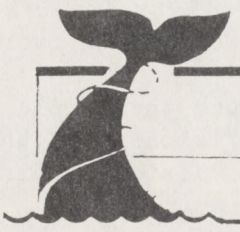
BK

Just about anything you'd need!

FRESH MEAT PRODUCE

JOSEPHS

BI-RITE MARKET
And department store
LONE PINE



The Whale Protection Fund
CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
1925 K STREET N W
WASHINGTON D C 20006

"THE AGREEMENT"

by
Cathy
Marcelin

The Supervisors are determined
To give our water away.
The people in our County
Will have nothing much to say.

For years and years this battle's raged
With no solution near.
The Supervisors are in charge
So there's nothing left to fear.

Mr. Johnson tells us that
We just don't understand
That the agreement will protect us,
Our water, and our land.

In retrospect we all
Can see
That we've always been treated fairly
By the D.W.P.

They've always had our good
At heart,
Even when they tricked our farmers
At the very start.

Their main concern
Is our valley fair,
Our grass, our flowers,
And our clean air.

Since tourism is our
Main attraction,
We know that the agreement
Will meet with satisfaction.

Most of our officials
Come from far away.
They took one look at Inyo,
And decided they would stay.

Lovely mountains, the quiet life,
Good fishing,
And all the time
They are wishing

To change us from what
Drew them here.
They forget so fast,
And so I fear

That their hearts are not tender
Nor do they care
About what we think
Or about how we fare

In this battle for water
So important to life;
This battle that has caused us all
So much strife.

If I were in office,
I'd want it put to a vote.
Then, when it backfires,
The people can't gloat.

But I'm sure they're uneasy
About a public "show."
I'm sure they're aware
That we would vote "no."

And when you're determined
To push something through,
You don't want any static
We all know this is true.

So, God bless them as they prepare
To sign this agreement.
In everyone's view
It is quite an achievement!

Photo Page





Though it's not "officially" spring yet, the weather's been fine for enjoying the outdoors. As these photos show, not only people appreciate the warm sunshine.





Inyo County
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Independence,
CA 93526

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